



## Bellingham Technical College Press Release

Date: October 15, 2010

Media Contact:

Marni Saling Mayer, Director of Communications

Direct Phone: 360.752.8325

Email: [msmayer@btc.ctc.edu](mailto:msmayer@btc.ctc.edu)

3028 Lindbergh Ave. Bellingham WA 98225

### *For Immediate Release*

## **BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE AWARDED \$980,382 TO TRAIN WORKERS IN THE HIGH DEMAND, HIGH-GROWTH NURSING FIELD**

**Bellingham, Washington** – October 15, 2010 – As part of a multi-college grant Bellingham Technical College (BTC) was awarded \$980,382 over the next three years by the United States Department of Labor (DOL) to enable the College to expand high-demand healthcare industry education through the Healthcare Education-to-Career Opportunities (HECO) Project. Everett Community College is the grant's lead college and the fiduciary agent; they will manage the grant in collaboration with BTC, Edmonds Community College, Cascadia Community College, Shoreline Community College, Providence Regional Medical Center, Stevens Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, the Workforce Developmental Council of Snohomish County, Workforce Developmental Council of Seattle-King County, and Northwest Workforce Council.

Dr. Patricia McKeown, Bellingham Technical College Interim President says, "The Healthcare Education-to-Career Opportunities (HECO) grant project is another exciting example of a regional partnership to help insure our healthcare industry has the highly skilled workers it needs. Healthcare is a strong force for Northwest Washington's economic health. This project will incorporate innovative strategies such as self-paced, intensive, online, and contextualized instruction with integrated student support services to insure student success. At BTC additional cohorts in practical nursing and registered nursing will be funded each year for the next three years."

Community-based Job Training Grants improve the ability of BTC, as well as its collaborators, to train and prepare students for the workforce. This DOL Grant will create opportunities for unemployed or dislocated individuals, incumbent workers, workers with limited English proficiency, and other working community members to train through the HECO Project for high-demand, high-paying healthcare occupations.

"BTC is extremely pleased to be a part of this grant in collaboration with Everett Community College," said Carol Lager, Dean, Health Programs, Science and General Education. "It will enable BTC to expand our nursing programs in a time when state funds are limited. Students will receive additional support for tutors as well as an instructional assistant."

This project will allow BTC to:

- Fund an evening cohort of 20 LPN students to continue their education at BTC
- Expand the LPN to RN students-per-year with 20 additional students
- Implement an alternative information delivery mode, utilizing the clinic settings during evenings and weekends, allowing an opportunity for incumbent workers to participate
- Develop online courses, allowing students to self-pace
- Increase student success and retention during tutoring and instructional assistant sessions

## **About Bellingham Technical College**

Bellingham Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers 34 associate degree and 57 certificate options providing professional technical education to support local and regional industry workforce needs. For more information, go to [www.btc.ctc.edu](http://www.btc.ctc.edu).

# # # # #